

# Times .10

Your Magazine of Choice

September 2003, Vol. 11 Number 1



Why  
Walk?

Pg's 6 & 7

Glorious  
& Free?

Pg 11

Fun

Pg's 5, 7, 20

Identity

Pg's 9, 15, 30

Health

Pg's 14, 24, 32



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**Managing Editor**

**Dennis Cambly**  
**times10@telusplanet.net**

**Assistant Editor**

**Steve Townsend**  
**times10@telusplanet.net**

**Associate Editor**

**Joey Gierulski**  
**times10@telusplanet.net**

**Proofing**

**Walter Medak**

**Cover Photo**

**"Kamil"**

**A Sunny Delight**

**Distribution**

**Clark's Distribution**

**Contributors**

**Jimmy, Rob, Mike, Bob, Liz M.,  
Scott Bidstrup, Kevin, Ray, Brian,  
Shawn, Garry, Laurie Blakeman,  
Robert, Joe, Liz, Marla, Mick,  
Dow, Jon, Scott, Conrad, Mike,  
Brent, Steve, Jim, Mike Schiller,  
Gordon, Sue, Richard and  
hundreds of other members of our  
community and our many  
thousands of friends  
on the Internet**

**Times .10 on the Internet**

**www.times10.org**

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**Fax: (780) 455-6540**

## **Coronation Week 2003**

Coronation 28 has come and gone, with four days of sparkling jewels and gorgeous gowns. Their Majesties Bobby and Endora have stepped down, and a new monarch has risen to represent Edmonton. As you read this issue of Times .10, and see all the photos taken over the week, here is their exciting story.

Coronation Week began with the In Town Show, a Thursday night spectacle at the Roost. The night featured Edmonton's best performers, out to show their stuff, and celebrate the reign of the 27th Elected Monarchs, Bobby Bigonion and Endora St. Claire. It also showcased the candidates one last time, Ladonna, Oprah, and Derek. Hosted by Decade Emperor Mr. Vera and Empress XX Tootsanelda Whoofenpeekhole, the show was exciting, entertaining, and Bobby and Endora had a wonderful time.

Friday saw the Out of Town Show, with a wide cast of performers from all over the circuit. Boots rocked with talent from Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, Hamilton, and Minneapolis. Hosted by Emperors 27 1/2 Garry (EDM) and Bruce (VAN) and Empress 27 1/2 Rocio D'Johnson (MIN), this was another fabulous evening of drag entertainment. Saturday was the day of Coronation itself, the 60s and 70s As Seen on TV and as organized by Ball Coordinator Mr. Vera. Held at the Freemason's Hall, this year's Coronation Ball featured the Double Decade Presentation of Empress VII Mrs. K, the Decade Walk of Emperor XVII Mr. Vera, and the final walks of the 27th Upper House: Jazzy, Pepper, Mark, Bianca, Krystall, Bobby, and Endora.

With fabulous candidate numbers, exciting entrances from Buddys, Woody's, Down Under, The Odyssey from Vancouver, the Court of Calgary, to name but a few, the evening was five hours of drag entertainment, culminating in the election of Empress XXVIII Oprah. The evening also saw the presentation of 4 scholarships of \$500 each, as well as the Citizen of the Year Award to Sticky Vicky, the Presidents Award to Elise, and the Empress I Millicent Lifetime Achievement Award to Gretchen Wilder. Sunday was a day of recovery, with Victory Brunch at the Garage and Tuff Drag at the Roost. Bobby and Endora thanked their out-of-town

guests for coming, as well as presenting a few personal awards. Chef Paul put on a fabulous brunch spread for everyone.

Oprah introduced us to her house, the 28th House of Everlasting Sunsets and Never-ending Fantasies, as well as inviting us all to Coronation XXIX, next May, with a theme of Egyptian Queens on Safari. Later that day, Kitten Kaboodle and Bianca LaBouche of Calgary

hosted yet another fabulous Betty Ford with Tuff Drag star Bobby-in-drag.

The first major event of the 28th House will be Investitures, coming up at the end of September. Also in the next few weeks, as the final part of Bobby and Endora's year, the funds raised by their year will be

presented to GLCCE and OUTreach for all their help and support this year, as well as for their importance to the community.



To everyone who attended Coronation, thank you and I'm glad you enjoyed yourself. To everyone else, we'll see you at a court event soon.

On behalf of the ISCWR  
Emperor XXVI  
Rob Bigonion

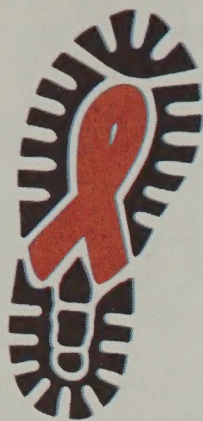


# Coronation 2003



All pictures available at [www.times10.org](http://www.times10.org) in the Archives





# AIDS Walk Edmonton

Sunday, September 21, 2003

## City Hall

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A 6km police escorted walk through central  
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### Event Schedule:

- 11:30 am - registration begins
- 12:30 pm - welcome and warm-up
- 1:00 pm - Walk begins
- 2:45 pm - prizes will be awarded



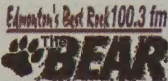
Then join us at the **Roost** at **4:00 pm** for our **After Walk Bash**. Participants who raise pledges can get in for free. Others are welcome with a \$2/person cover charge.

Money raised during the Walk and Bash will support the programs and services of:



Persons Living with HIV Society

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# Why Walk?

Because Prevention Remains the Only Cure

By HIV Edmonton

On September 20 and 21, 2003, over 60,000 Canadians are expected to take part in AIDS Walk Canada. This year, 130 walks are being held across Canada. Thousands of Canadians will be participating to raise funds for local community-based AIDS organizations that provide HIV/AIDS care, prevention, education and support services in their communities.

At a time when more and more Albertans are becoming infected with HIV/AIDS, HIV Edmonton and Living Positive believe it is of the utmost importance to put the HIV/AIDS epidemic back on the public agenda. Encouraging members of the community to walk is the first step in putting

HIV/AIDS back on the map where it belongs. This year's theme, *Why Walk? Because Prevention Remains Our Only Cure*, is designed to encourage everyone to walk to help accomplish this goal. By working together, Edmontonians and Canadians can break the silence and stigma that surrounds HIV/AIDS and help foster the support, compassion and commitment on behalf of people directly affected by this disease.

With increased demands for services and shrinking government funding, HIV Edmonton and Living Positive rely on the funds raised from the AIDS Walk to provide financial support for the critical services that they provide to the community. This year they hope to raise

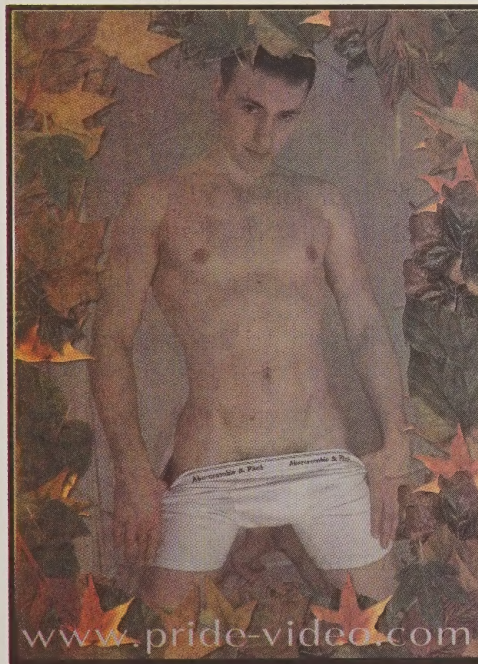
over \$50,000 in support of their programs and services. However, in order to meet this goal, more walkers are needed.

"At a time when resources are stretched, the funds raised from the annual Walk are vital to the work that we do," said Sherry McKibben, Executive Director of HIV Edmonton. "Not only do the funds raised stay in our community to provide services and resources for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, but they also lend a hand in raising awareness."

Awareness and prevention programs remain the only defense against HIV/AIDS infection.

"While people living with HIV/AIDS are living longer

due in part to new treatments, Albertans particularly Edmontonians, continue to be infected at an alarming rate", said Sherry. According to recent statistics from Health Canada, approximately 55,000 Canadians are living with HIV/AIDS. In Edmonton in 2002, there were 82 newly reported cases out of the 172 newly reported cases in the province. This number does not accurately portray how many infections there may actually be in the city however, as less than 2 % of Albertans get tested for HIV. "With more people accessing our services, we are constantly struggling to meet the demands," said Sherry. "It is time for all sectors of society to respond to HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS can be prevented with the proper resources. We are encouraging all members of the community to participate in this year's walk." If you are interested in more information about the AIDS Walk or would like to register, please contact the Walk office at 488-5742.



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# Church and State are separate for a Reason.

Should Religion be involved with the decision on the Same Sex marriage issue?

"Equal marriage is about full equality for lesbians and gay men in Canada. Whether or not we as individuals ever choose to marry our partners, or even particularly agree with the institution of marriage, what it comes down to is choice and being FULLY equal. Not almost equal. Not being tossed some "right" that comes in second behind true marriage. Truly and fully equal with true and full access to all that other Canadians have access to." - to

quote Stephen Lock the Regional Director for the Prairie/NWT/Nunavut Region for Egalite Canada.

Many people don't seem realize how closely this issue can open the door to rulings that could affect their own rights and freedoms. Whether or not they personally know or are affected by the rights of same sex couples. It boils down to dictating "law" by way of removing/denying the rights and freedoms of one group based on only a segment of the population's personal religious or social belief structures/ prejudices.... hmmm why does that sound so dangerous?

Marriage is a not a religious issue, though many people try to make it out to be. While many religions hold marriage as a sacred covenant and their right to do so should be protected; on the other side of that coin "secular" people also hold marriage sacred. For that matter, different religions celebrate and

recognize marriage differently. Those rights should also be protected. Marriage is a partnership between two consenting adults, who enter into a legal contract. It is a civil union. How the parties who get married choose to embrace their contract of marriage within their personal lives is often dictated by their faith but religious faith shouldn't be permitted to dictate how all people who enter into the contract of marriage live their lives. Nor should any religion be permitted to dictate what the lawmakers of our country determine is equality for all its citizens.

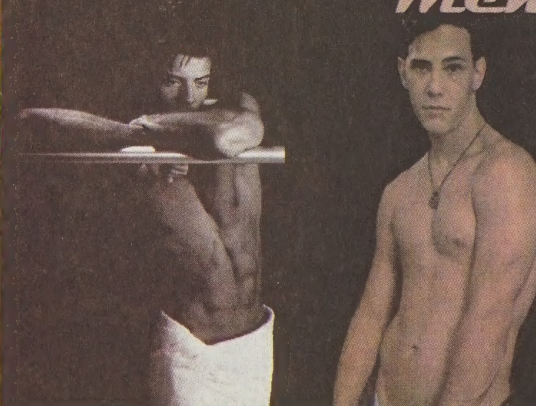
It's in the separation of 'church and state' that we are able to ensure the protection of our hard won and dearly cherished freedoms in this country. Imagine the chaos that would ensue if our leaders were "guided by their faith" in creating our laws and protecting our rights. We have leaders in parliament that are from many different (& often opposing religious beliefs) who represent large

segments of our population with a range of 'faiths' from Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist...(etc.) as well as individualized pagan and agnostic practices. How well would those Representatives be 'representing' their constituents if they vote according to their only personal faith? If they choose instead to just vote according to 'what faith dictates' which faith do they choose?

*I have written my MP to voice my support of same-sex marriages being legally recognized and granted the same rights as marriages now recognized in Canada. I hope that every person who values the freedoms of expression, sexual or religious, takes the time to write their MP and let them know where they stand on this issue, based not on religion, but on the basics of Human Rights and Freedoms we wish to preserve in this country.*

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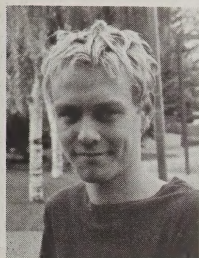
# DOWN UNDER

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## Strength & Courage

I finally came out of the closet when I was 18. I knew there was something up long before that though. Like most guys there was a long mental struggle before I finally



decided to come out to everyone around me and not hide it from anyone anymore.

I was in grade 6 the first time I can remember concisely

being attracted to another guy. I didn't act on it or anything at that age, not for fear of rejection or being teased, or anything like that. Really it was because of un-education. I had no clue what gay was, I don't remember hearing about it in school. The word gay was never spoken around my house well at least not that I could remember. Well if it was I didn't know what it meant anyways. I knew that it was the feelings I was having were different than other people but I never talked about it or discussed it with anyone. Didn't really see a need too.

Then I started Junior high and that is when I finally discovered what gay was. I didn't think that I was gay. Although all the guys in my gym class seemed to know I was gay. They would always call me gay or fag or something along those lines. It did hurt to be made fun of. I couldn't help if I ran like a

girl. Now I started to think to myself that maybe I was gay it took about a year to totally accept it to my self but I did. It was ok that I knew but no way on earth I was going to let anyone else know. So to cut down suspicion I started dating a sleeping with girls I was the first out of all my guy friends to loose their virginity.

In about grade 11 I told my friend Scarlett that I was gay. What a load of my chest that was I felt the weight of the world just float away. She was cool about it I really think she could have cared less which was awesome because I didn't want it to be a big deal. I made her swear that she would not tell anyone. I didn't want to come out of the closet until I was done high school.

I finished high school still wasn't out then this guy named Robbie (now my best friend) Started at my work. I thought he was gay so I started hanging around his till and taking coffee breaks with him. Robbie asked me to go out to the bar with him so I went with him and the rest is history.

I finally found a group of people that were just like me. Knowing that there was a community of so many great people gave me the courage to come out. I was a bit leery at first because I knew that once I told everyone I knew that I was gay. There would be no going back. So I sucked in my gut killed all the butterflies in my stomach and let it out for the whole world to know. Now I am the assistant editor of Times.10 magazine and hope that I can help other people to find the courage to tell the world.

*Steven Townsend*  
Assistant Editor

## What If?....

*By Vincent Richards*

Two small words, Oh, so many questions. We question our lives with these two little words. We keep wondering, what if we took another path?

Would our life have been different Or maybe still the same?

Are we still searching, Trying to see what might have been?

Are we just unhappy with our lives, Wanting new dreams?

Do we really want to know what might have been?

Should we just except our life as it plays out now? What If?....

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## Ding-A-Ling Ideas For Changes In Insurance

**Laurie Blakeman**  
**Liberal MLA**

Once again, the Klein government has shown just how sensitive it is to corporate welfare. Whatever big business wants, it gets and Albertans are the ones who pay the price. For instance, Alberta's insurance companies are on the defensive, crying the blues to the Tories that something has to be done about large insurance payouts. And the government, ever mindful of their brother Tory, Bernard Lord's near defeat on the high auto insurance issue, have finally had the incentive to ...well not to DO anything but at least to form another all expenses paid conservative MLA committee to STUDY it.

I've had calls from my constituents who because of a fluke of nature were born male and are now paying insane premiums in order to insure their cars. One constituent told me that his \$1-thousand beater is going to cost him \$6-thousand to insure for the year. It's crazy. Some of the men I've talked to have delayed getting a car for

that reason and instead are relying on public transit (a good thing for the environment).

However, Edmonton City Police are reporting an increase in the number of drivers who are simply not bothering to insure their vehicle at all and driving around with expired insurance. For them, it's simply cheaper to pay the fine than it is to buy insurance. That's pretty scary for the rest of us too, cause our rates will rise if we are involved with an uninsured driver.

Seniors are another group, which is being hit hard by the insurance industry. Underwriters are simply refusing to insure them or make it so expensive they cannot afford to keep driving. Great quality of life in retirement eh - stay home. No shopping, no church, no visits with friends and no more volunteering for good causes.

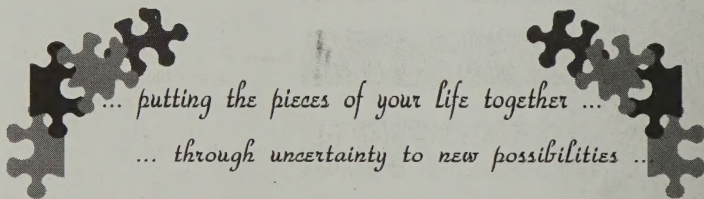
The government had already come up with ding-a-ling ideas for changes in insurance in Bill 33. I already spoke to this during 2nd reading in the spring sitting (go to [www.assembly.ab.ca](http://www.assembly.ab.ca) and look for Hansard link). This bill would make it so if you had two different coverage's, you could only claim under one of them for traffic accidents. Again, who benefits? Not Albertans. Many of us, especially those who do contract work carry disability insurance as self-employed and are in this position. Occasionally we also work as employees and would qualify under the employer's program. So even if you were paying for the two different plans - this bill would legislate that only one would be required to pay out!

And on the other front, the make-work project for Tory backbenchers-with-nothing-else-to-do has already recommended possible solutions to the high cost of insurance and has been sent back to STUDY it more. Well, after all there are

still 4 weeks of summer to fill! We will be get to continue the debate in full in the fall session of the legislature with Bill 33 but the MLA committee may just report back to the Tory caucus in secret again and all we mere mortals will get is a pronouncement

So much for the Alberta government getting out of the business of being in business. They are more than willing to interfere, gerry-rig and otherwise change things but the one group, which never seems to benefit is Albertans.

If you have a particular issue and would like to be on an email list for me to send you copies of questions asked in Question Period, please send me your email address and let me know whether you are a constituent or where in Alberta you live. You can reach me at my new email address [blakeman@laurieblakeman.com](mailto:blakeman@laurieblakeman.com) or call (780) 414-0743 or drop by #3, 9908-109 Street, Edmonton, AB. T5K 1H5.



**Liz Massiah, MSW, RSW**

Clinical Social Worker

Ph 780 415 5434

Fax 780 415 5433

[emassiah@interbaun.com](mailto:emassiah@interbaun.com)

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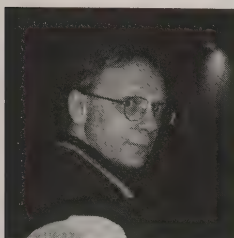
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# Glorious and Free

When will we finally realize that the church has no business in the affairs of our government or its members? tax every church and all of their lands,



buildings and contributions. These organizations have become so redundant that it is ridiculous that they even

exist in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. These are the people who would have us live as the Afghan population had to live under the Taliban or the current Iranian church state. Canada is a free nation because our founding members saw that the church and government needed to be kept separate. These were wise men and not some papal bigot wearing a dress in ancient Roman style.

The churches have long since lost their power and authority in the hearts and minds of most Canadians along with the rest of the world. They would have people believe that they must give up accepting themselves as they truly are in real life. Instead they would have them live in a camouflaged personality that does not even exist. In place of love they give the

person a world that the churches would fill with shame and guilt. We are finally reaching a point where people are beginning to accept themselves as an individual and not a clone of a long lost phrase or thought is a long battle. However, the sickness still hides itself behind people such as the churches, Conservatives and the Reformed Alliance Party in our country. It took a group of hard working people to bend the pen of bill smith to give us a place in the Capital City. This is a man, I use the word lightly, who has been brainwashed, if not completely brain deadened by the church. Please include anyone who votes on any issue with smith as a part of a great brain fart. Freedom of choice does not exist in their vocabulary since they are sick and we might take pity on their fruitless quest of conquest.

The only rapture is when people come to realize and accept themselves, as they are when they look into the mirror. You are the unfolding universe from the day you are born and continuously grow and shine by accepting yourself. Every person is born with special traits that make up the individual and no person has the right to accept you any other way. Another person or organization has no right to take away the things that make you special and unique.

Take a look at another group in the United States

that are attempting to destroy the rights and freedoms of another country, by making them a colony, beholding to their bombs and guns. Baby Bush and his administration crusade under the guidance of the sickness brought on by the church. They talk about a road map to peace while arming one country so that the others can be massacred while tossing rocks at tanks and artillery. Did you shout for joy when the Berlin wall was taken down? Have you weep with sadness as you watched the new one rise out of the desert in the Middle East?

Treat yourself to a good helping of becoming you and allow yourself to be loved, as this is the freedom that the church wants to take away. Watch out for the stooges such as Stockwell Day, who is slithering around working his policies via the back door with his good buddy Ralph Klein.

It is time to ring the alarm bells and let you know that these are the same people that signed a peace treaty with Hitler and his Nazi Party. Then, they looked blindly the other way while millions of people were being slaughtered for no other reason than being born into this world.

Glorious and free could vanish before your eyes if you let this sickness influence our government or our Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

**Dennis Cambly**  
Managing Editor

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# Terror Strikes The USA...

## Canadians Look at the Stars

By Joey Gierulski  
Associate Editor

Have you ever watched what a news cast on one station has



say about something, and then turned to another channel to see what the other stations have to say about it? Often, it can be quite amusing to see the differing points of view that the media has to offer. I suppose in many ways this can be a good thing for the public eyes and ears to see differing points of view, but in some cases the differing points of view can be more devastating and corruptive than informative and beneficial.

This point recently became quite clear to me during the massive blackout that plagued the eastern part of our continent. I first heard of the blackout by word of mouth, after which I went to the news sources on Television to see what was *really* going on. After all, don't most of us turn to the Television when a

problem arises, to see what is *really* happening in the world? But does our North American Media really provide the answers as to what is really happening, or do they actually just give us the 'What we think' rendition of the story?

After watching a particular American news stations' point of view on the situation, I actually became quite scared that another attack from those "evil doers" in the east had hit home again in our part of the planet. By this time CNN had already composed a dark and looming theme song for the 'crisis' and coined another 'terror' headline for the blackout. Why would they do this? Well, some believe that if people live in fear they will become cautious and protective and in the end stay at home in fear instead of going out to see what the real story is. But what the media failed to mention, is that while the US public is worrying about terror attacks causing blackouts, the Government is dropping twice as many bombs in other countries killing twice as many people. This is something that the US Government has been doing for years. They wait for something to hit home to keep the people and media pre-occupied with that situation, meanwhile they bomb the hell out of other countries. This is nothing new; the Government has been doing this for years. It all just boils down to giving the public the information that they want to hear, (or need to hear) and hide the stuff they *shouldn't* hear.

While all of this terror is going on with the US media stations, I took the opportunity to look at our Canadian media's point

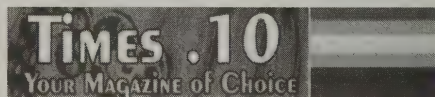
of view. To my surprise, the CBC was filming people sitting out on patios looking at the stars and enjoying the quiet night, laughing and partying it up while having a cold beer and a cigarette. (Yes, they allow smoking in the rest of the country, just not here in Edmonton) One Toronto resident said, "For the first time we can see the stars in the middle of the city."

While an American resident was caught saying, "I am staying home, there could be riots and looting. I need to protect myself". There was no "terror" and colour coded terror alert levels being shown on our Canadian stations. There was little to no talk of the blackout being related to any form of terror. Why is this? Well I believe that the reason is that Canada doesn't have any bombings or killings

to hide, and Canada doesn't like having their people living in fear and terror. Don't believe me? Go to the Canadian Government website, there you will learn about what's going on in Canada, like the biggest party and concert ever. Then go to the US Government website, where you will learn more about Homeland security and their ideas for being prepared for terrorist attacks.

In Conclusion, make sure you hear all sides of a story before you believe what you heard first, because sometimes people will turn the story just a bit to get what they want out of it. Whether it be to cover up something else, or get people to believe what they want people to believe. Not always can we depend on one Media source for the whole story, or the correct one for that matter.

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# National Security For Sale

*Editorial by Mike Schiller*

Although Bush pretended to "take responsibility" for his false words about Iraq's alleged pursuit of weapons of mass destruction, he never once admitted that he intentionally lied. Now, however, he has been caught lying about a serious domestic public health matter, and this time he cannot dodge the conclusion that he tells self-serving lies designed to manipulate the public into doing things his campaign contributors want them to do.

In the case of Iraq, he lied about his reasons for declaring war so oil companies could reap the profits from seized oil



fields and construction companies could reap the profits of multibillion dollar rebuilding contracts... at the expense of countless American lives... in the most recent case the lie was designed to convince thousands of New Yorkers to do back to

work despite hazardous chemicals lingering in the air so big corporations could continue to reap profits at the expense of countless American lives.

The only major difference between the two lies is that his most recent lie is causing people to die on American soil... where other people can see it. Other than that difference both lies are equally harmful to the American people and both have already had massive consequences for society.

George W Bush directly instructed the EPA to lie to the people of New York about the safety hazards involved with breathing the air after September 11th. The EPA recently issued a statement confirming that Bush instructed them to lie, but claiming that the lie was justified by national security concerns. Their rationale, however, is simply bogus. If the threat of biological attacks is a national security concern in the sense that it should be prevented, then national security concerns would also dictate that the government seek to prevent people from being exposed to any harmful chemicals or toxins in the air that might possess the same health hazards as biological weapons.

The air in New York City has made thousands of people dangerously ill, but that was not a national security concern to Bush because addressing such a risk would not be profitable

for any of his campaign contributors. The only so-called national security risks Bush is interested in addressing are those he and his administration manufacture for the purpose of manipulating the public into supporting courses of action which are beneficial to the Bush family and their allies' business interests.

If Bush gave a damn about national security he would seek to make sure people were safe and secure. Instead he's implemented policies, which have dismantled our national job security, damaged our international relations security, dissolved funding for police security, disabled educational security, destroyed our national health security, and even dwindled the surplus from social security! As far as electrical security is concerned, well, I live in New York so I will leave that rant for another article but yes Bush royally screwed that one up too.

If national security were Bush's concern, the people of America would be secure in some sense. Over the past few years, the only thing people have found to be secure is the knowledge that Bush will lie and manipulate the facts any way possible to convince people to things, which help him but harm everyone else. There is a word for that... the word is not security, the word is... Selfishness.

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# Speaking of "Normal"

**By Liz Massiah, MSW,  
RSW  
Clinical Social Worker**

When my Dad changed brands of beer, (Blue to Golden) he would say that "a change is as good as a rest".

The Supreme Court is trying to give us a change, along with the Liberals, but we sure are not getting a rest from the nonsense. And it's tiresome. I was determined to write about something other than same sex marriage, but my indignation keeps rising, so here goes.

In the Edmonton Journal last week was an ad for a week of prayer for marriage at an Edmonton Christian Alliance church. Now really that is a good idea, since so many marriages are in trouble anyhow. Will they all pray for an end to the violence in families, the hidden secrets, the abuse?? Will they pray for the notions of sharing, caring, nurturing and respecting? Likely the latter, not the nasty stuff of the former. If they do that, if they truly believe in those notions, then Logic 100 tells us they should also be open to others who hold those beliefs There's the rub.

From a theoretical point of view, marriage should be between two persons simply because the whole issue of sexuality is so darn fluid. I was married for ten years,

have been with my spouse of the same gender for fifteen years, consider myself a dyke, but others might want to call me bi. My feminist self starts to wonder about the implications of that deconstruction of sexuality and it all gets pretty confusing.

There are no psychological tests, no blood work and no chromosomal tests that allow the definition of sexual orientation to be definitive. This also isn't true of gender, but that is another story.

If I am a heterosexual man, married to a woman, and I am having sex with another man, I am committing adultery (great word, it sounds so Puritan) let alone a same sex act. Am I homosexual, or just Man who has sex with Men? If I am a woman, living with a woman, having sex with a man on the side, as the law stands now, I am not committing adultery, merely a Woman who has Sex With Men.

But as to my sexual orientation, does it mean I am heterosexual/homosexual, bi? Or just having an affair?

To me, trying to define these terms is like trying to herd chickens, good luck. So the obvious thing to do is to use Occam's Razor, which talks about always using the simplest solution— which is why the simple and obvious solution of the Supreme Court is the only one that can work. Any adult can marry another adult,

(except for parents and siblings and so forth).

Maybe the feds. can use the language of the Adult Interdependent Relationship Act that we have here in Alberta. Poor Ralph and the boys will have fits if they realize they have inadvertently made it easier for the feds to do what Albertans oppose. Now that wording goes something like, one adult in a committed, or not, conjugal or not, relationship can have an AIR. Confusing as all get out, but it does clarify that I can't AIR my parent or sibling.

Marriage was originally and is still primarily an economic arrangement. If you have any doubt about that, just check with divorce lawyers. If you want it, fine, go for it. Does that mean you need a church to be involved? No. You are not legally married until the

state has said so. Just ask MCC, a duly recognized church, but not able to legally marry folks.

Anyhow, enough said. Do let your MP know what you think, we do have power and need to use it. Then maybe we can worry about enough money for school breakfast/lunch programs, adult literacy programs, and helping married folks be successful at keeping their relationships, happy, healthy and not necessarily reproductive.

(Opinions expressed in this column are those of the author alone. They are not meant to replace consultation with a qualified psychotherapist. Any client related information is altered to protect identity.)

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## Being gay in Colombia

I found miraculously the site (times10) and was thrilled to have the chance of having my story published. I am 16, accepted my homosexuality since I was 15, and have been gay ever since I was seven. I got into this because I "explored" myself with some guys from my school, but as I grew they stopped doing it, and I was alone. I then felt really alone, because there was no one like me to talk to (and, actually, today I am in the same position) I have had casual sex twice, with a guy from school, and with one from the net (which I will never do again, I was lucky I didn't get AIDS) but

nothing fulfilling. Since my relations with women have been working perfectly (like the gays I know, I am really good looking (I model for Cheignon here) and had no problem there

I started denying it. This when I was 13. But I loved to look at good-looking guys, and already had the fame, (for what happened when I was 7) so my life was getting really complicated. Not to mention, I live in Bogotá (the capital) and go to the best school in here (my best friend is the nephew of the president) so it was really hard for me. I started hanging out with the guys who had the same fame I had, but they turned out to be some closeted freaks that denied it to the very

deep of their minds, but I am sure they are. I fell in love with one of them (they were 3) but he started hating me. I never came out to them, though.

Things were getting really hard, and I started kidding with that (like flirting with everyone, wearing tight shirts, thing like that) and my fame was now really big, and that was bad among the people I hang with. I was really confused then, but then I made friends with a guy from school that is very opened minded (my current best friend). We started getting closer and closer, but never sexually. I feel nothing for him, except a great friendship. Anyhow, I then stopped kidding with that, because people were already suspecting. When I lost my queer fame, I came out to this guy I talked you about (my best friend) but I said I was a bisexual. I told him and his sister, who is also very open minded, and have accepted me really good.

The bad thing now, is that I can't control myself anymore. I look at this blond skater who I find really good looking, two years younger than myself, and I want to have him, as well as some other guys from my school.

I have learned a lot from Dawson's Creek, like the story of Jack, and specially some very wise words he said in the last episode. (The scene is jack and his boyfriend are talking because jack's boyfriend will not kiss him in public.) Note: Pacey: Doug's brother, Doug: Jack's

boyfriend, Jack: The gay of Dawson's Creek

After I saw that, I realized that I have hated myself for it, and before coming out to more people as a Bisexual, I must accept myself. And so I accepted that I am gay, and love being it (I mean, who has sex since he is ??)

I am about to face the last part. Coming out to the world. I don't know there, but here I am sure I will be beat up every day in school, so maybe I will do it in prom night, or something like that. I have found all the help I need in my friends (PEOPLE OUT THERE: COME OUT TO YOUR REAL FRIENDS; THE BEST THING U CAN DO!) my therapist, and some Websites such as Times .10.

I want to help anyone who wants, so I will open a e-mail account (different than this one, so I have full storage capacity) that I will be sending you. The other thing is that your Website says something that works for all of us who don't live in NYC, Amsterdam, Miami, London, Paris, or San Francisco. Do not flee to a gay paradise (Though truly I want to) because otherwise we will never get equality. Fight for the GLB Community, do anything you can. I want to start my own business here, so I have the money to do a large gay corporation. AND I WILL DO IT!!!!



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# How to End Your Relationship

*Randy Corturillo*

This is a simple but little known fact. Just go grocery shopping with your partner. By the time you get home, thoughts of life insurance policies, forcing sale of your home and the cute bag boy in aisle five are dancing through your head. It starts with "The List". For some reason, you can't just walk through and buy what you think looks good. It must be orchestrated with the precision of breaking into the Pentagon. It is divided into sections and Heaven help us if "Dishwashing Liquid" falls under the "Dairy" column. In our grocery store, Dairy is at the end of the line before checkout, so this would entail hot tailing it over to aisle three before my boyfriend turns white and falls over dead from stress.

I am a cart pusher. I simply push the cart and glare at mothers who let their children throw products in our cart. I say "Yes, dear" and "Whatever, dear" for the first couple aisles, but by aisle four I am saying "Who the #@&\$ cares? Toss the damn thing in the cart". I answer questions like "Honey? I am not sure what to do! I REALLY like Peter Pan Peanut Butter, but Skippy is 7 cents off! What do you think?". This from the man that will easily apply

for a second mortgage for football tickets...

The cleaning product aisle is completely off limits for me. As my husband is an accountant, he is perfectly capable of standing there for an hour, contemplating and trying to figure out how many sheets are in a roll of Paper toweling in each brand then dividing that by the price. When he starts dividing the number of washes contained in a box of detergent I start to twitch. By the time he hits the toilet paper and is juggling packages to see which is softest, I flee. I head to the kitchen accessory department and start to think that maybe my life is not complete without a refrigerator magnet in the shape of a goose or corn cob holders in the shape of a lizard. Then I go watch the cute bag boy in aisle five stock cans. I especially like that part. After that, lean at the check out and read the magazines. The moment of truth has come. I see this huge mass of products coming at me and can only assume my husband has decided to feed all the Balkan countries, half of India and part of Africa. The dreaded moment has come. The worst word in the English language. COUPON. He whips out about four thousand scraps of paper and the check out clerk looks in terror. I mean, she is making minimum wage and is not prepared for this at all. He proceeds to hand her a coupon for 5 cents off of a bag of flour that he cut out in 1979. Another coupon emerges

that if he buys 37 boxes of Jell-O, he gets one free.

One more that if he buys 20 pounds of chicken, he gets a FREE tub of sour cream! At this point my sunglasses go on and I go to buy some Lottery tickets. After ten exhausted people have bagged up everything, we head to the car. Of course he is checking the receipt while navigating a cart with a broken wheel and four hundred pounds of stuff in it. We have had our share of dings and he says, "Aahhh...It is an old Toyota anyway. Who cares? LOOK HONEY! I saved four cents on a stick of butter!" As we proceed to load up he "supervises" as the thought

of breaking an egg would require the services of 911. I carry the eggs on my lap and guard them like a chicken. Upon arriving home, I have had it. While I find being anal retentive at times a quality I enjoy in a gay man, this is pushing it. I beg excuses and let him sort his stash.

So, if you ever want to break up with your loved one, don't bother with the normal way. No point in leaping around on them, tossing out their clothes or outing them at work. They will end up coming back anyway.

Just steal their coupons. You won't ever see them again...



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# No Butts About It

By Sally Sheklow

I don't mean to judge, but the Pope is an asshole. Not literally, of course. That oft-vilified anatomical opening is a vital, natural and good thing. The Pope himself has one—a fact even his hole-y-ness's personal physician would not rebut, so to speak.

It's that very opening; the one the Holy See denies could ever be a source of pleasure that has the papal panties in a wad. John Paul II's new edict tells politicians they have a "moral duty" to oppose same-sex marriage. Duty! Doodie is more like it.

Church and state are supposed to be separate, not conjoined like two-ply Charmin. But, and I use the term loosely, the Big Guy warns Catholic politicians that voting for egalitarian marriage legislation would be "gravely

immoral." In the sphere of political anal-ysis, the Patriarch's recent condemnation of same sex marriage and gratuitous defamation of gay people stands out like swollen hemorrhoidal tissue.

Any leader who tells me I can't marry my own wife is obsessed with Uranus. We're married honey, and we want the civil recognition we deserve. Popeymon says—and, by the way, so does our monkey-faced president (no offense to primates)—that a solemn and legal vow binding two women in matrimony is sinful, that two men legally promising to care for each other as long as they both shall live will put the sanctity of marriage asunder. Infallible Man's head is up something other than his miter. Thank God (dess) the faithful in the U.S. Senate are defying the Pope on this one. Catholics—by and large intelligent, loving people who take care of their families and do good works in their communities and around the world—know the Pope does not always speak the true word of God, whatever that is. Our creator, or evolution endows humans with a

conscience or whatever fabulous serendipity got us here. We get to decide for ourselves.

When I was thirteen, I slept over at my Catholic friend Teri's house. In the middle of the night she nudged my sleeping bag. "Come, on, I've got something to show you." She led me by flashlight into the laundry room. High on the shelf, behind the family-sized box of blue Cheer, lay an old cigar box. Under the lid nested the contraband—her mom's stash of birth control pills. A devout Catholic, Teri's mom marched her family to mass every Sunday, sent all her kids to Saint Theresa School and fixed fish for dinner on Fridays. But, in 1964, when the pill was a seriously controlled substance, she used it anyway." It's a sin. Women are only supposed to have sex to get pregnant," Teri whispered. "Who says?" I asked in the Talmudic tradition of my Jewish people "The Pope!"

Turns out, according to the well-respected Catholics for a Free Choice, 96 percent of Catholic women in the U.S. have used modern methods of birth

control, which the Head Patriarch still forbids. As a lesbian, my birth control method is completely natural, but the Holy Father picks on me anyhow. He's all up in my business and I object.

Don't get me wrong. Along with the brave senators who opposed putting archconservative William Pryor on the bench, I am not anti-Catholic. I stand with the millions of open-hearted and fair-minded good Catholics who champion justice, world peace and a woman's right to protect herself from unwanted pregnancy, who demand the ouster of the bishops and other church high mucky-mucks protecting priestly pedophilia, who support opening their doors—and the pulpit—to everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender. Opposing the Pope is no more anti-Catholic than opposing Bush is un-American. God Bless America.

Even though the Pope and the president are all bound up, the people are moving on. If there is a Divine Plan, we are all part of it. Even the assholes. We can't trust some unelected mortal to see that no one is left behind—no pun intended.

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PHOTO: JONATHAN LAMBERT



# When God Tries Again

Lambda Christian  
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Rev. Mickey Wilson

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

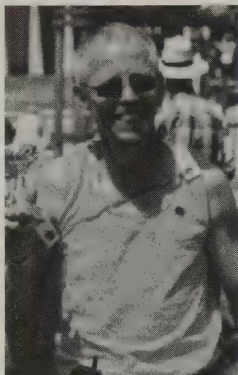
"The day will come," says the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife," says the LORD. "But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day," says the LORD. "I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. And they will not need to teach their neighbours, nor will they need to teach their family, saying, 'You should know the LORD.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will already know me," says the LORD. "And I will forgive their wickedness and will never again remember their sins."

What we have got in the books of the prophets, like Jeremiah, is mainly collections of sermons that they preached. Jeremiah was a preacher, not a writer. He had a secretary named Baruch who took notes as he preached and wrote them down for publication later. So in Jeremiah 31: 31 - 34 we have a brief summary of a sermon that Jeremiah preached. So rather than just

try to explain what I think this reading means and how it applies to us, I have attempted to rewrite Jeremiah's sermon. Now its no use to you to hear words that were intended for a bunch of dispossessed Hebrews two and a half thousand years ago, so with a bit of poetic license and considerable embellishment I attempt to respeak the words in the way that Jeremiah might have spoken it to us if he had been here in 2003; Jeremiah's message to the Edmonton's GLBT community if you like. Rather than commentate on the passage I am going to pretend to speak for Jeremiah, who in turn was speaking for God, so don't be put off when it sounds like I'm talking as though I was God. I don't think I am, I'm just speaking the word the way Jeremiah did. That's what I am going to try to do. Committed relationship of love and trust and security. These are the days when I offer myself to you, when I offer to share myself with you for the rest of time. I have shown myself to you, I have come among you and proven to you that my love for you could withstand even torture and death, and now I invite you to respond to that love and to accept the commitment I am offering you.

This new covenant will not be like the old covenant that I made with those who went before you thousands of years ago. In those days I found my people in Egypt. I found them broken and suffering. They were being cruelly abused by a people who cared nothing about them and who sought only to exploit them for whatever they could get out of them. And like a lover who

sees their beloved viciously bashed in some mindless act of random violence, I was distressed and anguished, and I reached out my hands in tenderness and pity, and wiped away the blood from their wounds and the tears from their eyes and, cradling them in my arms, I took them out of that place to a place of safety and healing. And



when their wounds were healed and they were safe from their oppressors I offered to commit myself to them, fully and forever, if they would offer in return to be faithful to me alone and to live lives of justice and righteousness, to show all the world the light of my love. And so we committed ourselves to one another in marriage, in a binding covenant relationship. And I loved them and cherished them and gave them every good thing. Whatever they needed for happiness and fulfillment I gave them and I kept them safe from anything that sought to harm them. I explained to them carefully the ways they should live that would ensure that their lives were long and joyful and fulfilling. I was their God and they were my people.

But despite my love and my faithfulness, they broke the covenant, they tore up our covenant certificate, they threw back the band of commitment I had placed on their finger and they spat in my face. And my heart was torn in two as I saw them go out and prostitute themselves on the streets to others who cared nothing for them, who just used them and raped them and robbed them of their dignity. I couldn't hold back the tears as I watched and saw the life and vitality draining from their faces as they were sucked dry and cast aside on the garbage heap of humanity and yet still they would not return to the warmth and safety of my arms. I was grieved, I was deeply hurt, I was shattered to the core, but still I longed to be reunited with them. Despite the humiliation of having my love treated with such public contempt, my love never died.

So I decided to do away with the old covenant and offer a completely new covenant. A new covenant with a more human face. I became one of you and I came and lived among you. I walked on your streets, I ate in your homes, I worked in your workplaces. I found among you the same agonies and frustrations that I had felt when your ancestors betrayed me and scorned me. I experienced the struggles of living in your society and the pressures from every side to compromise your integrity and your faith. I learned all too painfully just how costly it can be to take a stand against hatred, violence and greed. I know how deep the fear is when faced with the powers of evil and corruption and how strong the temptation to turn your face away, to pull your head in and keep your mouth shut. I felt the pain and the grief and the deep, deep scars of your broken families, of your abused and



molested children, and of those who grew up in an emotional nightmare, starved of genuine love and affirmation. And I wept. I wept again because I was standing amidst the agony and destruction of a world that scorned my love and care and was now reaping the fruits of its own betrayal.

So I stood amidst the ashes of death and called for life. I called for healing. I called for peace. I called for joy. I called for justice and for righteousness. And I began to live it and to help other fragile hurting people to live it too. And we danced and we sang and we celebrated. And the powers of death rose up and tore me apart. The powers of darkness who could not stand the arrival of light screamed and spat and clawed and they broke my body and drained the blood of life from my flesh. Take my body, I have given it for you. Take my blood, it was poured out so that you might have life and have it to the full. This blood, this cup, is the symbol of the new covenant. It is the symbol of the depth of my love for you, it is the symbol of the commitment I am offering you.

This is the covenant I am inviting you into in these days, says the Lord. I will take you in my arms and call you my precious and my beautiful one. I will offer myself to you, fully and forever. I am offering you the deepest, most beautiful intimate relationship. I will forgive all the sins of your past. I will erase the memory of your unfaithfulness. I will take you into my heart and into my arms as one who is innocent and pure. I will caress away your fears and tenderly massage away the hurts and the scars you have suffered. I will kiss away the tears from your face and the pain of this world from your heart. I will hold you gently when the memories frighten you and I will stroke your hair and ease the anxieties of your mind. I will restore your dignity and renew your integrity and your self-respect. Everything I am and everything I have I give to you, my chosen and precious people.

This is the covenant I am inviting you into in these days, says the Lord. I will put my law within you, and I shall write it on your hearts. Not a law of restrictions

and rules, but the law of love and life. The law that keeps you safe within the bounds of love and joy and overflowing exuberant life. The law that enables you to reach the heights of joy and fulfillment and that guides you away from death and despair. I will pour into your hearts my Holy Spirit and she will be a seal of my love and faithfulness to you. She will blossom forth and bear within you her fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and faithfulness. You will be my greatest delight, my most beautiful treasure. You will be more precious to me than anything else on earth. I love you and I offer you this commitment, this covenant relationship, this promise of myself.

I will be your God and you will be my people, says the Lord. As you celebrate life together with one another, you are sharing together in the new covenant. I have called you, not only to be mine individually, but to be mine as a people. As my Holy Spirit begins to work in your hearts she will begin to reconcile you one to another and to bind you together as a covenant people. You will begin again to express for one another the sort of love and care and faithfulness I have expressed for you. My righteousness, my justice, my mercy and my love will be seen by all the world as it is lived out among you, my covenant people.

This is the covenant I am inviting you into in these days, says the Lord. You will know me intimately. I will share with you the deepest secrets of my heart. Everything I am I will share with you. Everything I am I will give to you. I will withhold nothing from you. I give you myself completely. No longer will you need to teach one another, or say to each other "Know the Lord,"

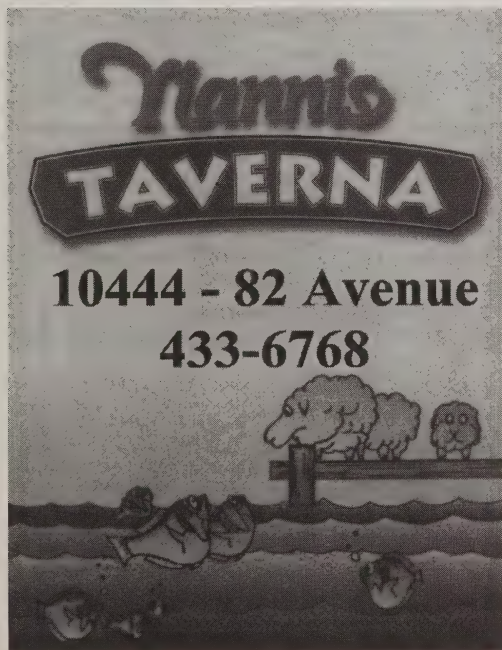
for you shall all know me, from the least to the greatest. You who are nothing in the eyes of this world, whom have been rejected and despised, will enjoy a close intimate relationship with the creator of this world. Those who are great in the eyes of this world can have the same but only the same, and you must accept all accept one another as brothers and sisters. No one will have to show you the way to God. None of you will be left in the dark, groping for someone to take your hand and lead you to the light. For you will have unrestricted access to me and the light of my love will lighten your way forever.

These are the things to come, says the Lord, they are now beginning and they will come to fulfillment. This is the covenant I am inviting you into in these days and this is the future that I am promising to you. I will blot out the memory of the evil and the pain and suffering of the past. I will forgive your mistakes and heal your wounds and we will be committed to one another in marriage, in a covenant relationship forever. I love you, I have chosen you, I want always and only the best for you. This is the new covenant sealed with my blood and my tears. Accept my promise, accept my commitment to you, accept the new covenant. And I will be your God and you will be my people, says the Lord.

Lambda Christian community church  
11148-84 Avenue, Edmonton  
Phone: 474-0753  
Web site: <http://www.members.shaw.ca/lambdachurch/>  
E-mail: [lambdachurch@shaw.ca](mailto:lambdachurch@shaw.ca)

Worship services: Sunday 7 pm

Safe spaces youth group begins Friday, September 17 - 7:30 pm - 9 pm on the 1st & 3rd Friday of every month) contact Arron @ 474-0753  
Choir rehearsal begins Sunday September 14 @ 5:30 pm  
September social September 28 @ 6:30 potluck & a movie  
Times.10 Magazine 19





# Recognized Community Builders

## **Alcoholics Anonymous**

AA is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

## **Bi-Sexual Support Group**

The Bi-Sexual Support Group meets on a monthly basis to talk about issues surrounding the Bisexual Community. Contact GLCCE for more information at (780) 488-3234.

## **Dignity Edmonton**

This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay and lesbian Catholics and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Joseph at 481-4218

## **Edmonton Prime Timers**

We are a chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, an international social organization for mature gay and bisexual men and their younger friends over 21. Our activities include: theatre nights, video

nights, pub nights, Sunday brunches, and dining out. We meet the second Sunday of every month (except July and August) at 3:00 PM at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton (12530 110 Ave.) for a social period, a guest speaker, and an optional supper at a restaurant. For more information, contact Peter at 426-7019, or better yet...join us at our monthly meeting.

## **Edmonton Rainbow Business Association (ERBA)**

Gay men and Lesbians in business and our non-gay friends; Join us ...share your business knowledge, learn more, make new friends, network ... in positive, proud space where being yourself is the norm. Call Bill Faulkner for more information at 422-6207. Membership \$25.00/yr.

## **Edmonton Vocal Minority**

Women and men of all sexual orientations dedicated to sharing and preserving the cultural heritage of the queer community. Everyone is welcome to join this mixed voice choir as either a singer or a support member. Come and sing your pride! For information: Telephone: (780) 479.2038, E-mail: [evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca](mailto:evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca),

on the web at: <http://www.planet.eon.net/~toocute/evm/>, or write to PO Box 12091, Main Post Office Edmonton, AB T5J 3L2.

## **Gay & Lesbian Centre**

Providing Resources, Referrals and Support to all members of the general public regarding Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues. Suite 45, 9912 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, (780) 488-3234. WebPages with more information at <http://edmc.net/glcce/>

## **HIV Edmonton**

HIV Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. HIV Edmonton utilizes a best practices Harm Reduction approach in Health Promotion, Advocacy and Support, as well as, maintaining an extensive Resource Centre for use by health practitioners, health promoters, community organizations and those infected and affected by HIV. For more information on the activities of HIV Edmonton, please call (780) 488-5742 or contact us by email at [mail@hivedmonton.com](mailto:mail@hivedmonton.com). Visit our Website at HIV

Edmonton <http://www.hivedmonton.com/>

## **Illusions Social Club**

A social club for Cross-dressers, Transsexuals and their supporters. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information, write to Illusions Social Club. Box 356, Main Post Office, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2J6. Phone: 424-2685 to talk to someone person to person.

## **Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose**

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations, which provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held at 8 PM on the last Wednesday of the month at the Garage. Our e-mail is: [wildrosecourt@yahoo.com](mailto:wildrosecourt@yahoo.com). Visit our Website is at: Wild Rose Court <http://www.geocities.com/wildrosecourt/>

## **ICARE Interfaith Centre for AIDS/ HIV Resources & Education**

Formerly Interfaith Association on AIDS,



the purpose of ICARE is to enhance the well-being of people affected by HIV by offering resources and opportunities for education to service providers and communities. You can contact us at 780-448-1768 or by e-mail at [icare@oanet.com](mailto:icare@oanet.com)

### **Lambda Christian Community Church**

We are a non-denominational Christian church providing a safe and healing space for Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Christians and their friends. 11148-84 Avenue (Garneau United Place) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753. Weekly Sunday service at 7 p. m. e-mail at [lamdachurch@shaw.ca](mailto:lamdachurch@shaw.ca)

### **Living Positive**

Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counselling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768 or e-mail: [livepos@telusplanet.net](mailto:livepos@telusplanet.net).

### **Lutherans Concerned: Edmonton**

We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people. Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship. We offer individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual questions. Call 426-0905, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3K4 e-mail: [lylemillang@powersurf.com](mailto:lylemillang@powersurf.com)

### **Making Waves Swim Club (MWSC)**

Open to all who are interested in lane swimming in a Masters club, we provide coaching to all levels of swimmers - those wishing to learn, those wishing to improve stroke technique and those wishing to train competitively. Drop in opportunity gives you flexibility to match your schedule. We swim at Bonnie Doon Leisure Centre, 8648 - 81 Street, Edmonton from September to June. Our members enjoy numerous social events arranged by the club. Please feel free to contact us to find out more information: Contact us at: 1. WebPages: [http://www.geocities.com/makingwaves\\_edm/home.htm](http://www.geocities.com/makingwaves_edm/home.htm). 2. E-mail: [makingwaves\\_edm@yahoo.com](mailto:makingwaves_edm@yahoo.com) 3. Phone: Warren 780-920-2847. 4. Attend a practice - your first swim is free!

### **Northern Chaps**

Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and women was established sixteen years ago. We strike to educate the rest of the community through workshops, staged demonstrations and events in order to heighten awareness. Northern Chaps meets the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. E-mail us at: [Northernchaps@telusplanet.net](mailto:Northernchaps@telusplanet.net)

### **Northern Titans**

We bowl every year from September till April, and you do not have to belong to a team to join - just show up. We have bowlers whose skills range from beginner to average - and we will give the new people pointers to improve their skills. The cost is \$15 (students \$10) for three games of bowling. We have a lot of fun socializing during bowling and afterwards most of us go out for supper. It is an excellent way to get to know people. Northern Titans bowls at Gateway Rec. Centre, 100 3414 Gateway Blvd Edmonton. For more information call Peter at 483-1075 - Or email at [northerntitans\\_edmonton@yahoo.com](mailto:northerntitans_edmonton@yahoo.com).

### **OUTreach**

OUTreach is a university-based organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals

interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. at the Second Cup on campus. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by e-mail:

[outreach@ualberta.ca](mailto:outreach@ualberta.ca). They also have a WebPages at OUTreach U of A <http://www.ualberta.ca/~outreach>

### **Yours, Mine, Ours and Us**

Yours, Mine Ours and Us is a GLBT Parenting group, this group is for pier support of other GLBT parents and their friends. For information please call Garry at 780-426-6311.

### **Youth Understanding Youth**

We meet every Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Gay and Lesbian Centre of Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612-124 Street. A social support group for anyone under the age of 25 years. For more information, or to give your input, e-mail: [yuyedm@hotmail.com](mailto:yuyedm@hotmail.com). Our WebPages are at Youth Understanding Youth <http://www.virtue.nu/yuy/>

### **Visions - Unitarian Church of Edmonton**



We are an open, liberal religious community that value diversity and celebrate our Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered members. With us, you are encouraged with open mind and heart to form your own set of personal beliefs. Sunday services at 9:30am and 11:15am. 12530 - 110 Avenue Ph. 454-8073. For more information, call Mike at 482-6582.

### Womonspace

We are a social and recreational society for lesbians in Edmonton. We hold monthly dances and other activities. Look for our monthly newsletter around town, or phone 482-1794. Visit our WebPages at Womonspace <http://www.gaycanada.com/womonspace/>

## Regional Organizations

### Grande Prairie

Gay and Lesbian Community, Box 1492, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z3. E-mail: [gpgayorg@hotmail.com](mailto:gpgayorg@hotmail.com)

### Out North

Box 2827, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2R2, Phone line: 867-669-7279. WebPages: <http://www.yellowknife.com/ptartan/outnorth.htm> E-mail: [out\\_north99@hotmail.com](mailto:out_north99@hotmail.com)

## Affirming Religious Freedom

### Equal Marriage For Same-Sex Couples

#### Q. Won't equal marriage force clergy to marry same-sex couples?

No. Clergy are protected by the Charter's guarantee of freedom of religion. Religious institutions set their own rules for marriage. The Catholic Church won't marry divorced persons. Many religions won't permit inter-faith marriages. Once same-sex couples can marry, each religion will still be free to set its own rules. The B.C. Court of Appeal s a i d :

"The equality rights of same-sex couples do not displace the rights of religious groups to refuse to solemnize same-sex marriages which do not accord with their religious beliefs. Similarly, the rights of religious groups to freely practise their religion cannot oust the rights of same-sex couples seeking equality, by insisting on maintaining the barriers in the way of that e q u a l i t y . "

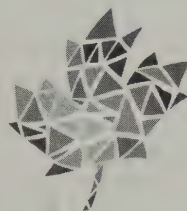
The federal government is asking the highest court in the land to confirm, once and for all, that religious freedom is fully protected. This will completely address the concerns raised by those opposing this legislation.

#### Q. How will same-sex marriage enhance religious freedom?

Some religions (e.g. United Church, Reform Rabbis, Unitarians, Metropolitan Community Churches) want to marry same-sex couples, but are not legally permitted to do so.

Allowing same-sex couples to marry will only enhance religious freedom: those religions that want to marry same-sex couples will be able to do so; those religions that don't want to marry same-sex couples won't have to.

#### Q. What about respecting religions that believe



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#### homosexuality is immoral?

As noted by Rev. Joel Crouse, a Lutheran pastor in Ottawa:

"This is a case of compatible, not competing, freedoms. Giving same-sex couples the right to marry should not be seen as a threat to a church's right to choose which couples it marries inside its doors. In fact, wherever we stand on this issue, this is the kind of diversity of opinion - and freedom of choice - that we should

celebrate, and protect, in C a n a d a . "

Orthodox Rabbi Steven Greenberg believes that Orthodox Judaism does not permit the marriage of same-sex couples. However he supports their civil marriage:

Civil marriage provides an umbrella under which we all can live, despite our very passionate differences. That civil marriage is permitted to persons who do not meet the criteria of one or more religions is not a cause for concern, but rather for celebration. That the two institutions can be different not only demonstrates the ability of civil marriage to be separate from religious

practice, but also the ability of religious marriage to choose its own course. That is certainly a victory for freedom of religion.

#### Q. Could Churches lose their charitable status if they refuse to marry same-sex couples?

No. The right of churches not to marry same-sex couples is protected by the constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion. Government cannot penalize someone for exercising their Charter rights.

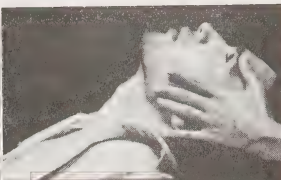
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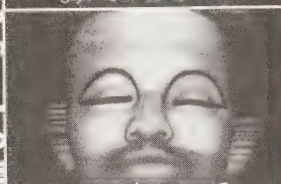


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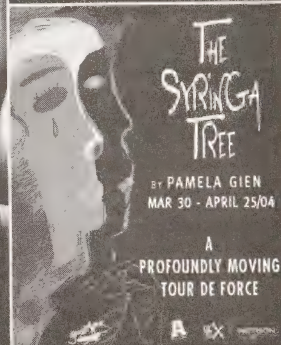


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# Strategic Planning

## HIV Network of Edmonton

HIV Edmonton has undertaken the development of a three-year strategic plan to coincide with the three year Alberta Community HIV Fund (ACHF) funding cycle, from April 2004 to March 2007. In August a consultation document was developed to provide another opportunity for stakeholder and service user's feedback. This is a summary but the full document is available at HIV Edmonton's website.

Some Statistics From May 1998 to December 2002 Edmonton had 377 new HIV cases while Calgary had 278. The HIV epidemic in Edmonton (unlike Calgary) is largely focused around injection drug users (IDU) and their sexual partners. More than 50% of these new HIV cases in Edmonton were

from IDU with another 10% being the sexual partners of IDUs. Many of these newly infected have multiple issues – addiction, poverty, housing, Hepatitis C co-infection and other health issues, absence of family and other supports – in addition to being HIV+.

The Alberta Community HIV Fund (ACHF)

A second piece of background information useful to understanding the strategic planning process is ACHF. ACHF is HIV Edmonton's major funder, traditionally comprising 60% of HIV Edmonton's funding.

There are two relevant ACHF documents. These are:

The Funding Formula for Regional HIV Organizations – 2004 – 2007. This formula establishes the funding available. The three organizations in Region 5 – HIV Edmonton, Living Positive and AIDS Jasper – currently receive a total of \$555,000 and for the upcoming

funding cycle are eligible for minimum funding of 559,606 to a maximum of 683,963 (median of \$621,784). This would imply at minimum the current funding level would be sustained with the potential for some increase in funding.

The Evaluation Framework establishes the standard for defining and evaluating the work of ASOs in Alberta. This document describes five major activity areas or funding approaches. These are:

Creating Supportive Environments to reduce social barriers that prevent people living with HIV, those at risk, and those affected from accessing health care and social services. Health Promotion for People Living with HIV/AIDS to increase the capacity of people living with HIV to manage their condition.

Prevention Initiatives to prevent HIV in populations known to be vulnerable to HIV.

Strengthening Community Based Organizations to increase the skills and abilities of the people who work at all levels of the community-based HIV movement.

Harm Reduction to reduce the negative consequences of high-risk behavior in the community such as injection drug use, and to ensure the safety of individuals.

## Stakeholders Input

During the past months, HIV Edmonton has been collecting information, surveying our stakeholders and discussing the future of our work. We held an intra-agency information session in April, asked our Consortium partners for their input, completed a client needs assessment (coordinated by Living Positive) and held focus group and discussion amongst our stakeholders.

In gathering this information, it was apparent there are contradictions and competing demands and ideas. This was

even true within the various groups, for example amongst the gay men who were interviewed. This divergence of ideas is undoubtedly exacerbated by the impact of flat government funding accompanied by increasing costs.

Amongst the 40 stakeholders who were interviewed prevention/education followed by counseling support and finally systemic advocacy were seen as the order of priorities for the organization.

Living Positive and HIV Edmonton conducted a paper survey for HIV+ people jointly. The 52 HIV+ people who responded highlighted the need for a wide variety of services. Peer support and treatment information were their top priorities, followed by advocacy and finally health education.

Moving Forward: the focus for 2004 – 2007

A number of directions are proposed. But first some parameters.

## Parameters

The current goals and objectives as established during the previous strategic plan remain valid.

The involvement of the infected and affected is an integral component of all of HIV Edmonton's initiatives and programs.

The current staffs of HIV Edmonton are experts in the field of HIV and AIDS and that expertise is acknowledged and valued.

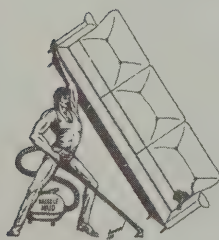
Volunteers are an integral component of all HIV Edmonton's initiatives and programs.

We will complete our five-year lease to August 2007 in the current location while working towards developing a new

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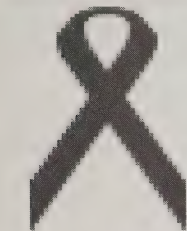
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permanent home. During this lease period, we will focus on: Establishing safety in and around the building  
Delivery of services through satellite locations where populations are reluctant to access services in this location.



Note: This building was the only lease property available to HIV Edmonton and Living Positive during the move in the summer of 2002. All other landlords rejected our tenancy.

Programming will be delivered based on the ACHF Framework.

Due to a critical lack of funding, HIV Edmonton cannot deliver all of the services that are needed. Therefore, we need to:

Establish priorities and deliver services to those priority groups/programs as funding permits.

Avoid duplicating services offered by other organizations.

HIV Edmonton will pursue opportunities to bill for services from agencies and individuals who receive AIDS funding or have the capacity to contribute. The work of the agency is responsive to the trends in the epidemic and treatments, which may alter the priorities and circumstances of the work.

### Proposed Directions

That HIV Edmonton refocus its work on Education/Prevention

(including harm reduction activities) for high risk groups.

For purposes of the delivery of education/prevention and health promotion programming, the prioritized high-risk areas are:

Addictions  
(included corrections)  
Aboriginal  
Gay/MSM  
Women/WSW  
Youth

If funding is insufficient to sustain programming of all of these areas, services will be developed in the ranked order set out above.

That advocacy and the creation of supportive environments are considered HIV Edmonton's second priority.

That HIV Edmonton downscale its counseling and support work except as it increases Health Promotion for People Living with HIV/AIDS. This would suggest that all general support be

referred to other existing community agencies.

That HIV Edmonton acknowledges and supports the peer counseling and support offered by Living Positive as primary in providing support for HIV+ people.

HIV Edmonton will formalize partnerships with agencies and organizations dealing with HIV+ populations. HIV Edmonton would offer comprehensive training to their staff to increase their capacity to offer services appropriate for HIV+ individuals.

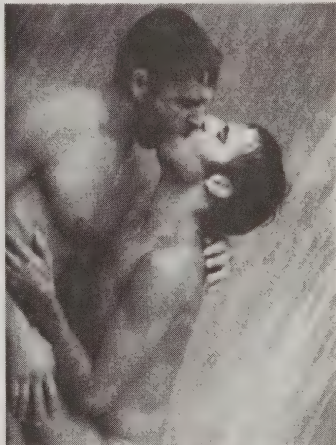
HIV Edmonton will initiate a Capital Building Project in preparation for the termination of the current lease.

In April 2003 the Board of HIVEdmonton endorsed the United Nations Declaration on HIV and AIDS. This Declaration will continue to inform our work..

The full Consultation Document is available at [www.hivedmonton.com](http://www.hivedmonton.com). Please provide feedback to [director@hivedmonton.com](mailto:director@hivedmonton.com) or phone Sherry McKibben at 488-5742, ext: 236.



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# You and Your Funny Bone..:)

## Useless Instructions

Never use while sleeping. -Instruction on Conair hair dryer

## Afghan Aid

A group of U.S. marines arriving in Afghanistan found them selves taking a surprise refresher course on first aid. Following an involved lesson on making splints, dressing wounds and applying tourniquets to stop bleeding, the instructor decided to determine how well the marine class had grasped the information given. "Goldberg," he said, pointing to one of the marines, "say you captured Bin Laden and find he has sustained a minor head wound, what do you do about it?" "That's easy, Sir," said Goldberg. "I wrap a tourniquet around his neck and tighten it until the bleeding stops."

## Silly Questions

There was a hound dog laying in the yard. An old man in overalls was sitting on the porch. "Excuse me, Sir, but does your dog bite?" the tourist asked. The old man replied, "Nope. "So the tourist stepped out of his car. The dog ran over snarling and growling and bit him on his arms and legs. As the dog was dragging him away the tourist was flailing around in the dust and yelled, "I thought you said your dog didn't bit!" The old man replied, "Ain't my dog."

## Turning Grey

One day, a little girl is sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly notices that her mother has several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast to her brunette hair. She looks at her mother and inquisitively asks, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?" Her mother replied, "Well, every time that a little girl does something wrong and makes her mommy cry or makes her unhappy, one of her hairs turns white." The little

girl thought about this revelation for a while and said: "You must have really pissed Grandma off then."

## Leap Of Fate

Tired of having to stare at the luscious young kitten on the other side of the chain link fence, bold Tommy Tomcat decided to visit her one day. Settling back on his haunches, he gave a mighty leap and landed on the other side; impressed, the lovely cat sauntered over. "That was quite a leap," she remarked. "Want to go somewhere and cuddle?" "Afraid not," said Tommy, a pained expressions on his face. "The fence was higher than I thought."

## High In Iron

A ranch woman takes her three sons to the doctor for physicals for the first time in their lives. The doctor examines the boys and tells the woman that they are healthy but she needs to give them iron supplements. She goes home and wonders exactly what iron supplements are. Finally, she goes to the hardware store and buys iron ball bearings (BB's) and mixes them into their food. Several days later the youngest son comes to her and tells her that he is pissing BB's. She tells him that it is normal because she had put them in his food. Later the middle son comes to her and says that he is crapping BB's. Again, she says that it is OK! That evening the eldest son comes in very upset. He says "Ma, you won't believe what happened". She says "I know, you're passing BB's". "No", he says. "I was out behind the barn jacking off and I shot the dog".

## Nuclear Waste?

A stranger was seated next to Little Tommy on the plane when the stranger turned to the boy and said, "I've heard that flights will go quicker if you strike up a conversation with your fellow passenger" Little Tommy, who had just opened his book, closed it slowly, and said to the stranger, "What would you

like to discuss" "Oh I don't know," said the stranger. "How about nuclear power?" "OK," said Little Tommy. "That could be an interesting topic. But let me ask you a question first. "A horse, a cow, and a deer all eat grass. The same stuff. Yet a deer excretes little pellets, while a cow turns out a flat patty, and a horse produces clumps of dried grass. Why do you suppose that is? Jeez," said the stranger. "I have no idea." "Well then," said Little Tommy, "How is it that you feel qualified to discuss nuclear power when you don't know shit?"

## Guilty Conscience

A guy comes home from work feeling bad about the day's activities. He lies down on the couch and ponders his actions. Like most of us, his conscience has two voices; that of his good moral side and that of his mischievous side. While staring at the ceiling, a voice in his head says, "don't worry about it, a lot of doctors have sex with their patients." The man tosses and turns in reflection of his actions. Again the voice says, "don't worry about it, a lot of doctors have sex with their patients." Feeling somewhat relieved, the man begins to relax and feel better about himself at which time another voice in head says, "but you're a veterinarian."

## Quote

I feel sorry for people who don't drink. When they wake up in the morning, that's as good as they're going to feel all day. —Frank Sinatra

## FORE!!!!

One day, God and the devil decided to play 18 holes of golf. They toss a coin, and the devil tees off with a nice drive. God tees off with an awful shot into the ruff. A squirrel running along grabs the ball in his mouth and scampers away. As the squirrel is scampering, an eagle comes out of the sky and snatches the squirrel, and flies high into the sky when its hit by a bolt of lightning, frying it instantly. The golf ball falls to the ground and into the 1st hole. The devil looks at God and says "Are you going to play golf, or piss around all day?"

## Little Angels

The fourth-grade teacher had to leave the room for a few minutes. When she returned, she found the children in perfect order. Everybody was sitting absolutely quiet. She was shocked and stunned and said, "I've never seen anything like it before. This is wonderful. But, please tell me, what came over all of you? Why are you so well behaved and quiet?" Finally, after much urging, little Sally spoke up and said, "Well, one time you said that if you ever came back and found us quiet, you would drop dead."

## The Bathroom

A rather attractive woman goes up to the bar in a quiet rural pub. She gestures alluringly to the bartender who comes over immediately. When he arrives, she seductively signals that he should bring his face close to hers. When he does so, she begins to gently caress his beard

which is full and bushy." Are you the manager?" she asks, softly stroking his face with both hands." Actually, no" he replies." Can you get him for me - I need to speak to him?" she asks, running her hands up beyond his beard and into his hair." I'm afraid I can't," breathes the barman, clearly aroused. "Is there anything I can do?" Yes there is. I need you to give him a message," she continues huskily, popping a couple of fingers into his mouth and allowing him to suck them gently. "Tell him that there is no toilet paper in the ladies room."

## Two Hours Later

A Scottish private walked into the pharmacy near his base, pulled a beat-up, mutilated condom out of his pocket, and asked the pharmacist how much it would cost to repair the condom. The pharmacist replied that including replacing the band and spot welding the holes, it would cost 26 pence, but that for 29 pence, he could sell the

private a new one. The private said, "Aye, that is a weighty decision, I shall be back in two hours with an answer." Two hours later, The Scotsman returns and said, "The regiment has voted to replace."

## Fly A Kite

A man is in his front yard attempting to fly a kite with his son. Every time the kite gets up into the air, it comes crashing down. This goes on for a while, until his wife sticks her head out of the front door and yells, "You need more tail." The father yells back, "Fuck you! I told you yesterday I needed more tail and you told me to go fly a kite!"

## Gold Coins

One day on the way home from work, I stopped at the local Pharmacy and while I was checking out, I picked up some candy to take home for

me and my 7-year old son. It was a bag of Gold Coins (Gold Foil-covered chocolate candy coins). There were many sizes, from dime to dollar. I took the bag home, and my son and me opened the bag and ate all of the coins, my son taking the bigger dollar-sized ones and me taking the smaller ones.

The next day, my wife, my son and I stopped at the Pharmacy again to pick up a few things. While my wife and I were shopping, we noticed that my son had picked up a Gold Coin Condom. Before we could catch him, he took it up to the counter and asked the Pharmacist, "What's this?" The woman, looking very serious, said, "That's a condom, son." To which my son replied, "My daddy BOUGHT me some of these yesterday!"

With a disgusted look on her face, the Pharmacist replied, "Those are NOT for children, young man." And finally, my son replied, "Then I'll buy this one for my Daddy. He likes the LITTLE ones!"

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# The Forgotten Ones

By Rosalyn L Forrester

In this day and age, with equal rights for lesbians and gays becoming more common, the most recent being the right to marry, it seems that a very instrumental member of the queer community has been left behind: I am referring to the transsexual community.

**First I need you to understand that the words transsexual and transgender do not share the same meaning. One describes a member of the community, the other is another way to say queer, as in the whole community.**

Since the days of Stonewall, transsexual womyn and men have been involved in working towards human

rights for all. Transsexual womyn and men, in fact, were at the front of the riots along with the drag kings and queens. This, of course, was because these members of the community had no way to hide within in public. It wasn't a "don't ask/don't tell" kind of thing because kings and queens were stood out rather clearly, while the transsexual womyn and men walked around with identification that disagreed with their internal gender.

Police were quick to use us as their favourite people to humiliate, beat, 'out' to our employers and families. In some instances death was also used as a tool. So transsexual womyn and men stood beside everyone spilt their blood, only to be told "we'll deal with your issues later". The reason for this delay was because we were considered more freakish than the L/Gs, and it was believed that we might slow down the process of gaining human rights.

So here we are, some thirty odd years later, and we find ourselves still waiting for that promised support from our sisters and brothers. Here in Canada there are no large lobbying groups to bring change,

as there are in the U.K. and the States. We have no one to help us work towards the same basic health care, that all other Canadians take for granted. Sex reassignment surgery (SRS) is a basic and fundamental right for transsexual womyn and men. We need to be able to live in peace with our bodies, but many of the provinces refuse us that right. I might add here that the federal government does recognize the right of SRS, but only if you are lucky enough to be one of their employees or held in one of their prisons. Don't mistake me here; no one is lucky if they are in a prison. In fact, transsexual womyn face grave dangers.

What have we done to help ourselves? We have written letters, started court cases and filed human rights complaints. What we can do is limited because many of us lose our jobs, homes and families upon transition. In short, we have no money. Myself and another womyn from Quebec have begun a massive letter writing campaign directed at every queer group, union, clergy,

all the government agencies we can find and all those that claim to support LGB issues.

We need your help, plain and simple. The Canada Health Act promises equal, not *different*, health care for all. But here we are being put into that *different* category. I am asking you all to remember what that felt like because it wasn't all that long ago that you too were in this category.

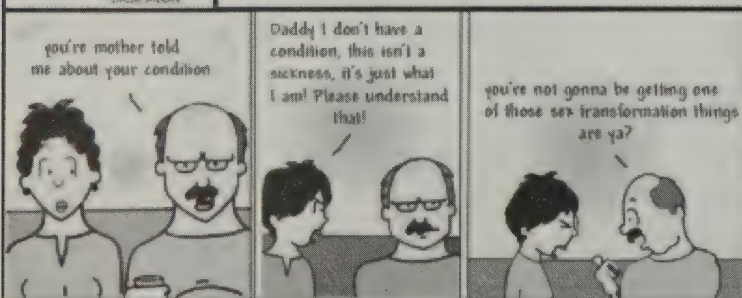
Please help us to put pressure on all of the governments in Canada, so that we can finally start to be where you are now. I know we have always been there to help you, and will continue to be, so now I am asking for the same from you.

## Surviving a long distance relationship

By Colin Muir

As I'm sure many of you can relate, participating in a long distance relationship is not an easy thing to do. There is really no prescribed method of making it work, but it's success is based largely on the devotion and effort of the people involved. The concept of long distance is surely relative; while one might consider a few hours drive to be long distance, another might consider an intercontinental relationship to be of no great consequence.

**OUT THERE**  
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## Freedom of Choice

For the past year I have been part of a long distance relationship with my partner (I'm of the few hour variety), but it certainly wasn't my first experience. Along the way, I have discovered some things that help build a strong relationship, and here are a few things you might try to keep the homefires burning:

**Objectives:** This is first on the list because I consider it to be the most important. To help keep your spirits up, it is useful to give yourself something to look forward to on a regular basis. If you can, try planning holidays or a vacation several times a year to give yourself a focus.

**Be open:** The phone, while impersonal, is your best tool

at keeping in touch. If you find that your conversations are getting repetitive, or monotonous, try making a list of new things to talk about when you have some spare time. If you have a computer, it may be in your best interest to invest in a webcam to facilitate a more personal conversation (or a bit of pleasure as well).

**Occupy time:** While not for everyone, distraction can be pivotal in surviving long distance. A hobby or some form of entertainment may help you focus on matters other than the felling of being isolated or depressed.

**Trust:** Without this, there will be no long distance success. You must trust your partner, and earn their trust as well. This is not earned

overnight, but faithfulness will keep your worries at bay.

**Porn:** Yes, porn is important to stay sexually satisfied if your partner is not directly available to satisfy your needs, but remember not to get carried away, as sex can be very intense after a long period of deprivation.

In my experience, I have found that long distance makes for a more intense relationship in many ways. Feelings not expressed over the phone or internet can often fester is not expressed, which is why communication is the most important thing. Even if it is late, and you have to work early the next morning, you should try to resolve conflicts, as leaving an issue to the next day may cause

your partner to feel put-off, making matters harder to resolve.

I am not a professional at long-distance, and I have tried not to come off as preachy. It just seems like a shame when two people let something like distance get in the way of their happiness. So the next time you consider ending a relationship due to distance circumstances, consider that if you were meant to be together, distance should not be a barrier to your ultimate happiness.

There is both success and failures on the road to finding out what works for you, and it is important that you discover for yourself how to manage long-distance. Best of luck, and hang in there!

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# Senior Admiral says lifting Gay Ban would strengthen Military

## Former Navy JAG Calls 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' 'Odious'

The retired Judge Advocate General (JAG) for the Navy, Rear Admiral John D. Hutson, has called for the end of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy banning openly gay soldiers from service.

In an article published this month in the National Law Journal, Admiral Hutson called the gay ban "virtually unworkable in the military." The article argues that the policy is the "quintessential example of a bad compromise," and that the "don't ask, don't tell" regulations are a "charade" that "demeans the military as an honorable institution."

Admiral Hutson, who retired in 2000, now lives with his wife in New Hampshire, where he serves as dean and president of the Franklin Pierce Law Center. As JAG, Hutson was the senior uniformed attorney in the Department of the Navy. His job was to oversee all legal issues in the Navy, supervise

the 750 lawyers in the JAG Corps who serve around the world, and provide legal counsel to top commanders, including the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of Naval Operations.

In an interview this week with the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military, University of California, Santa Barbara, he said he initially supported the policy, concluding that "a satisfactory resolution was impossible then." Since it was hammered out in 1993, however, much has changed. "At that time," he said, "we thought the sky could fall. To completely overturn the policy ran the risk of undermining our ability to complete our mission." But with the benefit of over a decade of experience with the policy, and with what he called a "somewhat more enlightened population, particularly among younger people," he now believes it's time to end the ban. "That was then and this is now," he said. "I am now convinced, as I was not then, that the military could survive" lifting the ban entirely.

Admiral Hutson was a Navy Captain in the office of the JAG in 1993 when the current gay ban was formulated, serving as the JAG's executive assistant. In 1997, he became the JAG himself, and it fell to him to enforce the policy. Since retiring from the Navy in 2000, he has gained "a somewhat different perspective, and I think a richer one." He now perceives "a very low level of support for the policy." He advocates ending the ban because he recognizes "that the American public is more ready for this and is not crazy about the policy."

Defenders of the ban have long argued that allowing gays to serve openly would impair unit cohesion and undermine military readiness. But a growing number of observers now argue that the ban itself, not the presence of gays, may

threaten morale, cohesion and performance. Last year, the policy faced a barrage of criticism when Americans learned that nearly two dozen Army linguists, many specialists in Arabic, were discharged under "don't ask, don't tell."

Admiral Hutson said that ending the ban could help strengthen the military. "Eliminating the policy on balance now would serve a greater good and in many respects would foster cohesion. Unburdened by this odious policy, the Department of Defense might come out stronger, and more able to defend the country." He explained this was not only because more people could join or remain in the service, but because the public's support of the military could increase. "There is right now what I perceive to be this blemish on [the armed forces], and it ought to be removed. And if it is removed, ultimately the military would feel better about itself and it would be held in even higher regard by removing this fundamental unfairness for a fairly significant population in the country."

Admiral Hutson was prompted to write the article in the National Law Journal after the Supreme Court overturned state sodomy laws early this summer. While that decision did not immediately end military regulations banning sodomy and prohibiting openly gay soldiers, legal challenges are underway using the High Court's recent decision as a new precedent. Dean Hutson argues that the American public has "moved far enough along" for it to accept openly gay soldiers, an assertion that is born out by several polls both within and outside the military.

Nathaniel Frank, Senior Research Fellow at the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military, said Admiral Hutson is the most eminent military officer to call unambiguously for the lifting of the gay ban. "As the former JAG of the Navy," Dr. Frank said, "Hutson's comments warrant special attention." The Santa Barbara Center has published studies on the Israeli, British, Australian and Canadian militaries since they lifted their gay bans, which conclude that allowing gays to serve openly does not undermine military readiness.

Admiral Hutson fears that the U.S. military is "falling further and further behind" the American public. "This is what's discouraging to me," he said. "I don't want an institution for which I have great affection to be antiquated in its ideas. The military is better than that."

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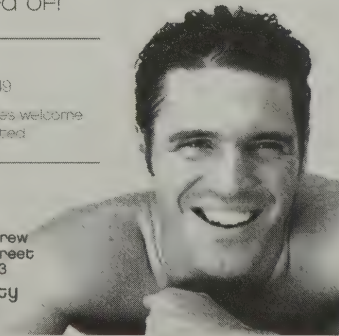
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# Art Panels Unveiled for AIDS

## Amid Opposition By Right-Wing Groups

The Wall-Las Memorias Project, set to begin construction soon of an AIDS monument in Lincoln Park in the historic eastside Los Angeles community of Lincoln Heights, unveiled the mural panels that will grace the sides of the monument. The unveiling comes at a time when the monument is under attack by right-wing groups who see it as part of the "homosexual agenda."

The mural panels were created by artists Alex Alferov, Paul Botello, Hugo

Crosthwaite, Kathy Gallegos, Yolanda Gonzalez and Miguel Angel Reyes. The six murals draw upon a diverse set of images, colors, design, figures and cultural symbols to express hope and inspiration in the fight against the AIDS.

"Not only is this a monument dedicated to education, healing and hope, it is truly a piece of public art," said Richard Zaldivar, executive director and founder of The Wall-Las Memorias Project.

The monument, The Wall-Las Memorias, designed by architect David Angelo and public artist Robin Brailsford, will be located at Lincoln Park northeast of Downtown Los Angeles. A community advisory board selected the site in 1993, based upon its rich history with the Latino community and its proximity to the local AIDS treatment center at County USC Hospital.

The Wall-Las Memorias, designed in the shape of Quetzalcoatl, an Aztec serpent and symbol for rebirth, will consist of eight panels, six with murals. The other two granite panels will display the names of people who have died of AIDS. The monument will also include a park setting with benches and an archway set in garden areas. The total size of the monument is about 9,000 square feet, with half of this area devoted to landscaping, including a medicinal garden.

Photos of the mural panels and renderings of the monument can be viewed <http://photos.yahoo.com/friendsofthewall>.

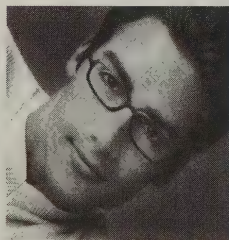
The Wall-Las Memorias Project ([www.thewalllasmemorias.org](http://www.thewalllasmemorias.org)) was founded in 1993 to educate the Latino community about HIV/AIDS, and to show how denial hurts families, communities, and people

living with HIV and AIDS. The Wall-Las Memorias goal is the construction of a memorial in Lincoln Park to honor those who have lost their lives to AIDS, and to promote healing and understanding for their loved ones and the community.

The Wall-Las Memorias Project has grown to include other programs which promote self-esteem, understanding and community, including discussion and support groups for men, young adults and mothers, an HIV/AIDS prevention program that reaches out to communities of faith, and a mens softball team. The not-for-profit organization also has a history of engaging in community activism and promoting community involvement. Its efforts here and in Baja California have resulted in the naming of an AIDS hospice in Tijuana in honor of the organization: Casa de la Memorias.

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By Michael Derry

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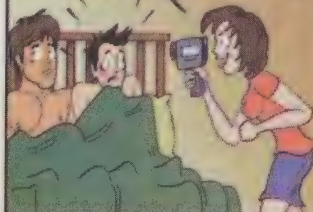
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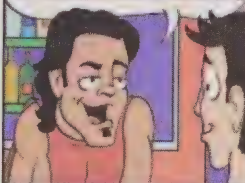
SO ARE YOU NOW A PART OF THAT COLLECTION?



GOOD LORD, **NO!!** I FREAKED! I GOT THE HELL OUT OF THERE. HAVE YOU EVER **HEARD** OF ANYTHING SO BIZARRE?



ACTUALLY, THERE WAS THIS ONE TIME... THIS GUY SAID HE WAS INTO THIS SORT OF KINK-FETISH AND I FIGURED, WHAT THE HELL. I'LL TRY JUST ABOUT ANYTHING ONCE, RIGHT? SO I GET INTO BED, HE GOES INTO THE OTHER ROOM TO CHANGE, AND WHEN HE COMES OUT...



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**BACK!!**



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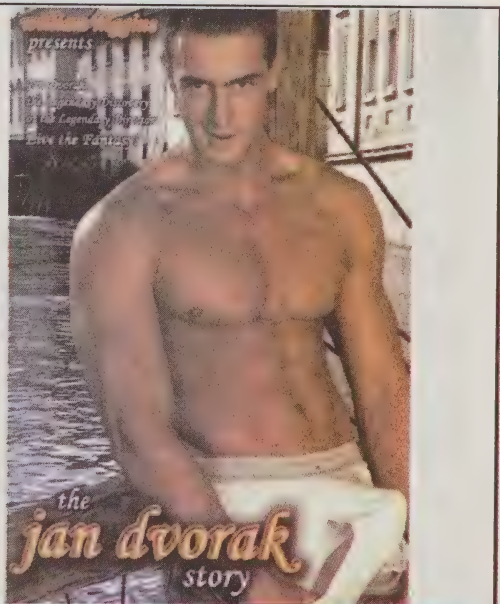
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## In Response to

**"Are we all  
trash?"**

Notice the article was written back in June so I may be a little late with my response; I only came across the article tonight whilst mucking around on the Internet, but for what it's worth here goes...

Firstly let me say how wonderfully and thoughtfully written I thought it was, I really appreciated it so I'd like to pick up on a thing or two. I'm a 26-year-old bisexual male, although perhaps I should refine that: I'm aesthetically and romantically heterosexual but sexually homosexual, or possibly bisexual. Perhaps

that gives me a unique perspective on the issues you raise.

I discovered gay sex in a park after dark near my house in a middle-class suburb of Melbourne, Victoria (that's Victoria the southernmost mainland state of Australia, not the island off Vancouver in your country) a few months shy of my 21st birthday. Pretty soon I discovered that there was an almost limitless supply of male-male sex to be found in innocuous-looking public lavatories in suburban parks, and not just after dark. Well, not entirely limitless, sometimes I'd loiter waiting to see if someone turned up, and other times I might not like the look of someone but quite often one could find oneself having anonymous sex with "faceless" strangers. There was a whole world

that had been going on without me previously noticing it. Pretty soon I felt I was a minor character in an Alan Hollinghurst novel.

Later on I discovered that the Internet could function as a sort of virtual meeting place. And then there were changing rooms at swimming pools at the right time of night or day. (I've never been to dedicated gay sex clubs but I know where to find them.) But the whole time I was protecting my physical being (i.e. a packet of condoms and a tube of KY always on hand) I was doing nothing for my mental health. Because the whole sex-on-tap approach of gay men is just like any other addiction. I might have liked to look down smugly at drug addicts feeling superior to them but wasn't I just another addict?

Anyway in about March or April this year I "gave up". I meet a man, in his early forties, at a "beat" and started talking, not the first time that's happened, but for the first time something came of it. Since then I've never been back to a beat, instead I've been visiting (until a few weeks ago) this new found "fuck buddy" once a month on average. He's the first guy I've ever kissed (yes I know that's weird) and he introduced me to Amyl Nitrate. Or have I given up? Have I not replaced one habit for another? With this man it's still just sex for me, the kissing for me is purely perfunctory or when I've sniffed a little too much Amyl Nitrate. You see I don't want to have a romantic relationship with a man, I'm just not "attracted" to men (yes again I know that sounds weird). For me it's all about sex when it comes to men... and that I

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suppose can leave a person pretty empty (please no jokes).

I spoke with him on the phone last week and he's recently found someone, that is a man with whom he intends to have a loving monogamous relationship, and so our little "arrangement" will have to be suspended until further notice. I wasn't offended, truly. I'm happy for him and I hope it works; I sincerely hope he shan't have any need for my services in the future. So for now I'm joining the 'happy school of bachelors' as you put it. What does the future hold? Well I could either become celibate (no, I'm not some religious nutter), or a mostly-celibate man who allows himself the odd, discrete treat, or maybe instead of idly gazing upon beautiful girls I might actually summon up the courage and ask one out (I have had girlfriends in

the past), and learn how to make straight sex as good as, if not better than, gay sex. Maybe I may even get married one day.

Now this mention of marriage brings me to my last point and back to the article. You mention the example of Sir Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears - I could add the late Australian Nobel Laureate Patrick White and his partner Manoly Lascaris, or the Australian High Court judge Michael Kirby and his partner (whose name temporarily escapes me) - yes, there are successful long term same-sex partnerships to be found, more typically amongst women, but I'm afraid they're the exception rather than the rule. And I reckon it's partly because, as you say, there's no children to worry about but also I'd add that there's nothing special about a couple when one is talking about

homosexuals or lesbians. Let me explain, if by couple we mean two people then it's easy to see how this fits into a heterosexual paradigm, that is to say one of each sex, male and female. But if we extend that to same-sex partnerships then why stop at two?

Basically I think people like Justice Kirby have got it round the wrong way when they speak of extending the rights enjoyed by married couples to same-sex couples. I think - and I'm speaking here from a libertarian perspective - that the state has very little right to interfere in the private business of consenting adults. People have the right to do what ever they want as long as it doesn't unduly affect others. So if two people or more, regardless of whether they are male or female, want to have some kind of formalising of their relationship(s) then the contract they enter into should be treated

in the same way as any other contract. The only reason the Family Court (established in Australia in 1975) should exist, if it should exist at all, is to work out what to do with the children under the age of 18 from any broken-down relationship. Likewise I think laws regarding bigamy, incest (for those over the age of 18), drugs, etc. should also be repealed because as I said if two or more adults want to do something and it doesn't affect anyone else then why the heck should the State stop them? (I also believe in cutting taxes and government spending... but that's another story!)

Oh God, it's after 1 in the morning, I was supposed to be up finishing an essay, now I'm prattling on to some magazine I've never heard of on the other side of the Pacific. Thanks for making the Internet interesting.

Patrick

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# Many Deaths Left Out of Iraq Story

With U.S. forces under consistent attack in Iraq, months after George W. Bush declared "major combat" over on May 1, media routinely refer to the number of American soldiers killed. But many of those reports dramatically undercount the actual number of U.S. deaths since Bush's May 1 address.

A recent NPR report was typical: "These two deaths

bring to 55 the number of U.S. forces killed in combat since May 1st, when President Bush declared major fighting had ended." A survey of transcripts from some leading broadcast news outlets, ABC World News Tonight, NBC Nightly News, CBS Evening News and National Public Radio, found numerous reports that used the same phrasing. These media are making a distinction, one rarely explained to audiences, between combat and non-combat deaths, choosing in most cases to only report the former.

NPR used this formulation earlier this month: "The U.S. has suffered more than 50 combat fatalities since major

fighting ended in May." The following day, it omitted the usual qualifier, rendering the report inaccurate: "So far, 52 American soldiers have died since major combat officially ended in Iraq". In reality, the total U.S. dead was about twice that figure, as tallied by the website Iraq Coalition Casualty Count (<http://lunaville.org/warcasualties/Summary.aspx>).

Some might suggest that using a casualty figure that includes non-combat deaths would portray the war as more deadly and dangerous than it really is. But non-combat fatalities clearly include deaths that are a result of the war; car accidents are often a result of speeding to avoid ambushes, for example, and the heavy battle gear troops are forced to wear contributes to heat-related fatalities. As Editor & Publisher's Greg Mitchell wrote, "Even if killed in a non-hostile action, these soldiers are no less dead, and their families no less aggrieved. And it's safe to say that nearly all of these people would still be alive if they were still back in the States."

Iraqi casualties, especially since Bush's May 1 declaration, are barely on the media radar. Most references to life in Iraq since then offer few details on the number of Iraqi dead or injured. "Fifty-four American troops killed in the last 100 days. There's no exact count of the Iraqis killed, or robbed, or raped," reported NBC's Richard Engle. While an exact total is impossible to verify, the

website Iraq Body Count (<http://www.iraqbodycount.net>) lists dozens of Iraqi deaths since May 1, many of whom were killed by U.S. forces.

Asked to describe Iraqi perceptions of the United States, NPR reporter Anne Garrels said: "Rightly or wrongly, Iraqis believe their lives count for little in the eyes of the Americans, who dutifully tally the Americans killed, but give no numbers on Iraqis who were killed, whether they're guilty or innocent". While the Iraqis may be right about the higher priority given to U.S. vs. Iraqi deaths, not even all U.S. casualties are being fully acknowledged, and that shortcoming applies not just to the Pentagon, but to media as well.

## ACTION:

Contact media outlets and encourage them to report the complete totals for U.S. soldiers who have died in Iraq, and not just those labelled "hostile fire" or "combat" deaths by the Pentagon. Encourage journalists to attempt to count Iraqi losses as well.

As always, please remember that your comments are taken more seriously if you maintain a polite tone.

(FAIR produces CounterSpin, a weekly radio show heard on over 130 stations in the U.S. and Canada. To find the CounterSpin station nearest you, visit [www.fair.org/counterspin/stations.html](http://www.fair.org/counterspin/stations.html).)

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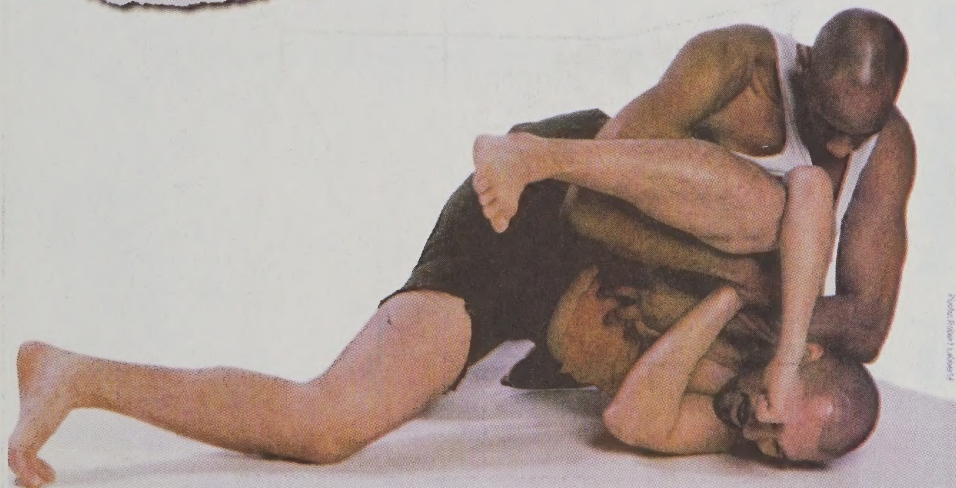


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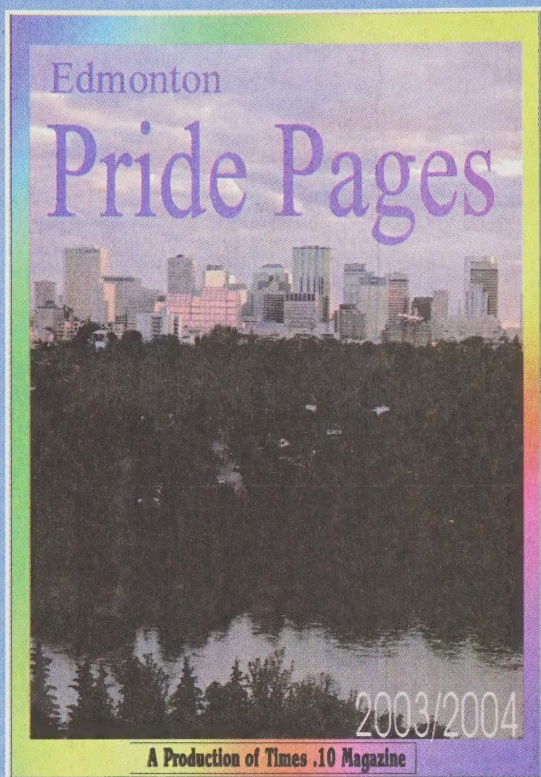
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